



**Department of
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land & Water Quality Nov. 2001**

O&M Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators and associated persons

EPA Water Protection Task Force

Alert #IV: What Wastewater Utilities Can Do Now to Guard Against Terrorist and Security Threats

October 24, 2001

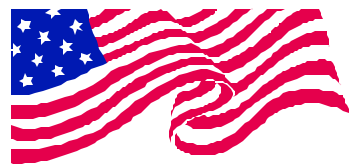
What is the Water Protection Task Force?

In October 2001, EPA established a Water Protection Task Force to ensure that activities to protect and secure water supply infrastructure are comprehensive and carried out expeditiously. The members of this group have proven expertise in different areas of water protection. As needed they will be sending alerts on issues related to protecting water infrastructure nationwide.

What is this alert?

One consequence of the events of September 11 is a heightened concern among citizens in the United States over the security of their critical wastewater infrastructure. The nation's wastewater infrastructure consisting of approximately 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers and another 200,000 miles of storm sewers, is one of America's most valuable resources, with treatment and collection systems valued

at more than \$2 trillion. Taken together, the sanitary and storm sewers form an extensive network that runs near or beneath key buildings and roads, and is contiguous to many communication and transportation networks. Significant damage to the nation's wastewater facilities or collection systems would result in: loss of life, catastrophic environmental damage to rivers, lakes and wetlands, contamination of drinking water supplies, long term public health impacts, destruction of fish and shellfish production, disruption to commerce, the economy and our normal way of life. Although many wastewater utilities have already taken steps to increase security, the following recommendations provide many straightforward, common sense actions to increasing security and reducing threats from terrorism. Many of these actions are recommended by the Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, and other leading professional organizations. The recommendations include:



I. Guarding Against Unplanned

Physical Intrusion

- ◆ Lock all doors and set alarms at your office, pumping stations, treatment plants, and vaults, and make it a rule that doors are locked and alarms are set;
- ◆ Limit access to facilities and control access to pumping stations, chemical and fuel storage areas, giving close scrutiny to visitors and contractors;
- ◆ Post guards at treatment plants, and post “**Employee Only**” signs in restricted areas;
- ◆ Control access to storm sewers;
- ◆ Secure hatches, metering vaults, manholes and other access points to the sanitary collection system;
- ◆ Increase lighting in parking lots, treatment bays, and other areas with limited staffing;
- ◆ Control access to computer networks and control systems, and change the passwords frequently;
- ◆ Do not leave keys in equipment or vehicles at any time.

For Practice:

1. What is the best long-term fix for high F/M sludge bulking?
 - a. Add chlorine to the RAS.
 - b. Decrease sludge wasting.
 - c. Increase sludge wasting.
 - d. Reduce sludge age.
2. How would you reduce the growth of bacteria in a filter bed?
 - a. Adjust the pH
 - b. Backwash more frequently
 - c. Pre-chlorinate
 - d. Slow the rate of filtration

3. If the feed time for sludge centrifuge operated in a batch mode is less than the optimum time,
 - a. a better centrate will result
 - b. a better effluent quality will result
 - c. a dryer discharge solid will result
 - d. a wetter discharge solid will result
4. Determine the solids loading on a floatation unit if the flow is 1.4 MGD and the influent suspended solids are 1,200 mg/l
 - a. 14,000 lb/day
 - b. 12,600 lb/day
 - c. 11,200 lb/day
 - d. 1,700 lb/day

Dick Darling

Electronic Copies of the O&M news

I'm surprised that I've only received a few e-mails from operators or others who want to get the O&M News via e-mail. We'll still continue to post every issue of the O&M news on the DEP Web site at

<http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/newslett/omnews.pdf> , but e-mail is a quicker way to get the news in your hands.

If you have e-mail and would like to receive the O&M News electronically instead of in the mail, please send an e-mail to:

dick.darling@state.me.us

We will build an e-mail group and start sending your O&M News electronically. This will start with the December issue of the O&M News

Dick Darling

Fall 2001 Exam

By the time you get this O&M News, the Fall exam will probably be history. For those of you who took the exam, the results will, hopefully, be back before Christmas. If you're thinking about taking the Spring exam, it will be given on May 15, 2002 in the usual locations. Applications must be postmarked by **March 31, 2002** or in our hands by **April 1, 2002**.

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

Nov 27, 2001 in Waterbury, Conn. Emerging Wet Weather Flow Issues– sponsored by NEIWPCC/JETCC, (207) 767-2649 – Approved for 6 hours

Nov 28, 2001 in Presque Isle, ME - Intro to Microsoft Office 2000– sponsored by JETCC, (207) 767-2649 – Approved for 6 hours

Dec 4, 2001 in Lincoln, ME - Basic Excel Spreadsheets with Tips for Using Your E-mail Effectively – sponsored by JETCC, (207) 767-2649 – Approved for 6 hours

Dec 6, 2001 in Waterville, ME - Emerging Wet Weather Flow Issues – sponsored by NEIWPCC/JETCC, (207) 767-2649 – Approved for 6 hours

Dec 11, 2001 in Kittery, ME - Computer Databases for the Intermediate User– sponsored by JETCC, (207) 767-2649 – Approved for 6 hours

Answers to *For Practice*:

1. b.
2. c.
3. d.
4. a.

Happy Thanksgiving!